



NATIONAL CENTERS OF  
EXCELLENCE  
IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

# International Health Activities and Programs

December 2000

OFFICE ON WOMEN'S HEALTH  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES

The National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs) were established in 1996 by the Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Their mandate is to establish and evaluate a new model health care system that unites women's health research, medical training, clinical care, public health education, community outreach, and the promotion of women in academic medicine. Their goal is to improve the health status of diverse women across the life span.

This brochure highlights some of the CoEs' international health activities and programs.

### **Clinical Services**

#### **◆ University of Illinois at Chicago CoE**

Physicians from the University of Illinois traveled to Tashkent, Uzbekistan to assess the status of two women's wellness centers. The two wellness centers were established by the UIC CoE with the help of their partner, Second Tashkent State Medical Institute which is sponsored by the American International Health Alliance (AIHA), based in Washington, D.C., and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The CoE representatives, Dr. Muhammed Khan and Dr. Ashlesha Patel, were joined in their travels by Dr. Fran Jaeger, Administrator of the UIC Perinatal Network and a participant in CoE activities. While in Tashkent, the UIC delegation reviewed the progress of

the two centers—one that has functioned since November of 1997 and one that just opened in April of 2000. These centers represent a new approach to the delivery of health services to Uzbek women. Prior to their existence, little care was available on an outpatient basis—with the exception of prenatal care and limited family planning services. Now the centers offer a comprehensive array of outpatient screening and prevention services as well as outpatient treatment and expanded family planning services. After the return of the team, Dr. Richard Derman, Clinical Director of UIC's CoE and a member of AIHA's Women's Health Initiative Task Force, were asked to submit a proposal to AIHA for the conduct of evaluation reviews of additional Women's Wellness Centers (a total of 15 have been funded with assistance by USAID) that are located in a number of Newly Independent States and Central and Eastern Europe. The evaluation reviews would be used for input into a Spring 2001 conference to be held in Washington, DC. Representatives of the various centers will come together to learn from each other, share experiences and plot strategies to ensure that the Women's Health Centers achieve their vision of providing model, comprehensive primary and preventive health care to women of all ages.

◆ **Indiana University School of Medicine CoE**

Approximately 20 nurses and nursing students from Thailand visited the CoE clinic and spent time with the Director of Women's Services at Wishard Health Services (that houses the CoE) to discuss the implementation of a designated line of health services for women in a hospital setting (e.g., ob/gyn, breast care, menopausal and post-menopausal care, gyn endocrinology). They received brochures and other information about the IU CoE.

The IU School of Medicine has an on-going exchange program with medical students in Kenya. The CoE Clinical Director, Dr. Ann Zerr, met with these students about the CoE during the course of their 6-week visit.

◆ **Magee-Womans Hospital CoE**

Magee, Family Health International, and the University of Washington, have developed a relationship over the past year. Investigators at these sites have joined together to form the HIV Prevention Trial Network Leadership Group which will oversee national and international clinical trial sites evaluating HIV prevention methods. Dr. Sharon Hillier is the co-principal investigator on the central laboratory that will support these efforts. She also serves on the Executive Committee for this Prevention Trial Network. It is anticipated that Dr. Hillier's laboratory will serve as a reference center to provide training for physicians and scientists in developing countries to study reproductive health. Visitors who receive training at Magee often benefit from exposure to activities within the CoE by learning about models of patient care delivery and research, and assessing which methods are relevant to their settings.

◆ **University of Michigan Health System CoE**

The primary mission of the Middle Eastern Women's Health Program, a Junior Faculty Outreach projects at the UM CoE, is to provide culturally sensitive health care services to the thousands of women of Middle Eastern origin in the Detroit Metropolitan area. In addition, this mission includes educating health care providers and students about the impact of culture, religion, and language on health care delivery; developing and executing research designed to study health needs assessments in an effort to improve the health care outcomes of Middle Eastern

patients; and developing health education materials for this population.

The clinical program includes an Obstetrics and Gynecology clinic staffed by Arabic speaking providers at the Taubman clinic at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor and at the Canton Health Center in Canton. It also includes outreach programs to the community designed to increase the awareness of the importance of preventive health care services for the entire family. Educational activities include teaching medical students and health care professionals about cross-cultural medical issues. Finally, it is an important initiative for promoting an environment that respects multiculturalism.

The Middle Eastern Women's Health Initiative began in 1999 with a vision of providing comprehensive women's health care services to the Middle Eastern/Arabic speaking population of the Detroit metropolitan area where over 250,000 individuals of Middle Eastern origin reside. This project has been developing under the leadership of Dr. Maya Hammoud, the CoE lead for the Culturally Competent Women's Health Care Initiative, who is fluent in the Arabic language and is committed to providing culturally competent health care to all patients. The committee working on this project is dedicated to its mission and to expanding it to all patients -men, women and children- of Middle Eastern origin. Ultimately, this program could be used as an example for development of an even more comprehensive International Health Program that would tailor services to International patients using the UMHS. For more information about the Middle Eastern Women's Health Program, please contact: Maya Hammoud, MD, Phone: (734) 936-3110.

◆ **University of Pennsylvania CoE**

Penn Health for Women continues to receive national and international recognition from medical centers wishing to develop a women's health center. During the past contract period, Penn Health for Women was visited by a reporter from Japan and medical professionals from Israel. Penn Health for Women has hosted five site visits throughout the year from physicians and administrators from around the United States.

◆ **Tulane and Xavier Universities of Louisiana CoE**

The TUXCoE Clinical Services Core was established with the goal of facilitating or providing health care to women throughout the life span, and particularly to mobilize efforts to improve women's health status in greater New Orleans, Louisiana, and the South. One of the objectives for achieving this goal is the identification, development, and implementation of clinical recommendations based on local, national, and international treatment guidelines for various diseases.

TUXCoE is planning to review and implement relevant clinical care guidelines that are appropriate for the optimal care of women throughout their lives. These would include screening and treatment guidelines on disease such as hypertension, breast cancer, heart disease, osteoporosis, AIDS and obesity. Guidelines from a variety of national and international organizations including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Center for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, American Cancer Society, American Health Association, American Diabetes Association, and the Osteoporosis Foundation would be used. TUXCoE patients and clinicians, as well as regional health providers, will be educated on the appropriate use of these guidelines for disease prevention and treatment of women.

◆ **University of Washington, Seattle CoE**

The Harborview Medical Center (HMC) is closely linked with the University of Washington, Seattle CoE Women Health Care Center (WHCC). The HMC is an international clinic known throughout the system for its multicultural waiting room, where international clothing styles and language are the norm and one-third of patients require an interpreter. The International Clinic specialized in integrative health care for recent immigrants. Its service population consists of approximately 65% patients of Southeast Asian descent, 25% from East African countries, and 6% from China.

Approximately 62% of the patients served are female, age 18 to over 90 years. The clinic provides allopathic care but also embraces traditional health techniques, such as acupuncture. This approach allows clinicians in the clinic to learn about alternative medicine but also serves to establish a familiar common ground on which to base trusting primary care relationships.

The International Community Health Services (ICHS) is a community-based clinic that has a 20-year history of providing culturally and linguistically accessible services to low-income and non-English speaking Asian/Pacific Islander residents of Seattle and King County. The ICHS uses Western medicine techniques, interwoven with the Eastern approach to health, that relies heavily on nutrition and lifestyle modifications. A respectful and accepting attitude towards patients' belief system has earned this facility a strong reputation in the community it serves. This facility participates in a referral network that relies on tertiary and specialty care at HMC and UWMC.

## **Professional Education**

### **◆ Boston University Medical Center CoE**

The Boston University Medical Center CoE Directors are involved in a host of national training programs in women's health, including the International Society of Traumatic Stress and the World Bank health programs in Romania.

### **◆ Harvard University CoE**

Andrea Dunaif, M.D., Director of the Harvard Medical School (HMS) CoE, was the co-organizer of the international conference titled Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS): Basic Biology and Clinical Intervention held September 17-20, 2000, in Raleigh, NC. PCOS is a reproductive and metabolic disorder that is prevalent among women across their life span. Through this conference, co-sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Science, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and NIH offices of Rare Diseases and Research on Women's Health, over 200 researchers from the United States, France, Netherlands, Australia, and United Kingdom gathered to discuss the advancements in research and clinical care in this field. Andrea Dunaif, M.D. presented a session entitled Insulin Resistance in PCOS and Caren Solomon, M.D., a member of the HMS CoE Research Committee, presented a session titled Immediate and Long-term Health Consequences of PCOS. Other HMS CoE Affiliate participants included Anne Taylor, M.D, from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and Morris White, Ph.D., Joslin Diabetes Center.

The International External Resident Rotation is administered by Brigham and Women's Hospital/Massachusetts General Hospital



OB/Gyn Residents Program. This rotation is elective and provides an opportunity to learn more about other populations. A modest stipend funds travel and living expenses incurred during the rotation. Upon completion of the rotation, residents present a summary of their experience to the OB/Gyn Department and are also invited to participate in other special educational and developmental forums. The following three individuals have participated to date, Rina Banerjee, MD, Calcutta, India; Audrey Garrett, MD, Capetown, Republic of South Africa; and Nawal Nour, MD, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

◆ **Indiana University School of Medicine CoE**

The IU School of Medicine CoE telemedicine activities encompasses a variety of distance learning initiative, which are integral to the School's operations and strategic planning. The Indiana Higher Education Telecommunications Systems (IHETS) education programs, which include diverse programming (e.g., international, interactive teleconference in health and medicine) that can be distributed to a variety of health care sites on the IUPUI campus, as well as 32 other hospitals and health care sites around the city and state.

◆ **Magee-Womens Hospital CoE**

Seminars are held on site for the purpose of continuing education. These seminars lead to certification in the Lamaze International Childbirth Educator Program. They are attended by faculty and staff of Magee-Womens Hospital, the staff of the Pinnacle Health System in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, community physicians and health care providers, educators from Puerto Rico and Singapore, and others from the U.S.

◆ **MCP Hahnemann University CoE**

The Women's Health Education Program (WHEP) website ([www.mcphu.edu/whep](http://www.mcphu.edu/whep)) is linked as an integral part to the MCPHU CoE Institute website ([www.mcphu.edu/institutes/iwh](http://www.mcphu.edu/institutes/iwh)). This year the WHEP site was dramatically expanded to include education resources in women's health and numerous women's health website links to areas such as International Women's Health issues, Dowry Deaths, Domestic Violence and Rape, Sex-Selective Abortion, and Norplant Clinical Trials.

◆ **University of Puerto Rico CoE**

The CoE presented the panel "National and International Health Reforms and their Impact on Women's Health". The activity, sponsored by the CoE with funds from ATLANTEA and the Deanship of Academic Affairs Visiting Professors Program, offered three CME Credits for Health Professionals. Panelists and topics presented were: Lcda. Diny's Luciano, Dominican Republic Consultant: "Gender, Health Politics and Regional Reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean"; Dr. Maria Isabel Matamala, Caribbean and Latin American Network on Women's Health, "Equity in Reference to Gender Differences in Health Reform Politics" and Dr. Yohana De Jesus, Department of Pneumology, University Hospital, Puerto Rico, "Impact of the Puerto Rico Health Reform on Women's Health. Prof. Myrtha Diaz, CoE Educational Component Co-Director and Professor at the UPR MSC School of Nursing gave a summary of the presentations and moderated an open discussion of recommendations from the attendants. Recommendations pertaining mostly to the Puerto Rico Health Reform, are listed below:

- Promote studies or analysis of the burden upon women that the Health Reform presents.

- Advocate for provision of laws to deal with burden of Health Reform on women.
- Promote studies to identify services that women are not receiving under the Health Reform.
- Participate in orientation/education of consumers who experience the impact of the Health Reform.
- Analyze and disclose gender discrimination of the Health Reform.
- Develop strategies and alliances of various sectors on different courses of action to improve the Health Reform.
- Present forums to define strategies and course of action.
- Request statistical data from the Department of Health.
- Communicate recommendations of this activity to health decision-making leaders.
- Claim equality in health services.
- Promote effective mechanisms of participation to manage and redefine the Health Reform striving for a universal health insurance.
- Establish/maintain dialogue with countries other than the United States; maintain communication with Latin American and Caribbean countries for a wider vision of the impact of health reforms on women's health.
- Recommend outcome evaluations to monitor the quality of health services offered.
- Assume responsibility for mental health patients.
- Take a closer look at the services that consumers actually

receive and at whether or not consumers are capable of utilizing the current appeal processes.

◆ **University of Washington, Seattle CoE**

The CoE's EthnoMed web-site contains medical and cultural information on refugee groups in the Seattle area and information on diseases specific to ethnic groups, as well as health needs in minority populations. The EthnoMed website address is: <http://healthlinks.washington.edu/clinical/ethnomed/>.

◆ **University of Wisconsin-Madison CoE**

In the Wingra Family Medical Clinic in Madison, Dr. Kraus (Pharmacy, CoE Faculty) has developed a multicultural and women's health focused clinical teaching site for family practice residents, pharmacy students, physician assistant students, and medical students, in a culturally diverse clinic that includes African American, Hmong, Cambodian, and Hispanic patients.

**Research**

◆ **University of California, San Francisco**

The Bay Area Breast Cancer Translational Research Program is a National Cancer Institute (NCI) funded Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) with Joe Gray as the Principal Investigator. The NCI established the SPORE in 1992 to promote interdisciplinary research and to speed the bi-directional exchange between basic and clinical science in order to move basic research findings from the laboratory to applied settings involving patients and populations. The ultimate goal of the SPORE is to bring novel ideas that have the potential to reduce cancer incidence and mortality, improve survival, and improve the quality of life to clinical care settings. The Bay Area Breast

Cancer SPORE sponsors research in four general areas: epidemiology, cancer genetics, cancer biology, and molecular therapeutics. This organization is based on the premise that elucidation of the genetic and biological characteristics of breast cancers will lead to improved diagnosis, prognostication and therapy targeted to specific biological or genetic defects. Dr. Virginia L. Ernster is the Principal Investigator of the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Core of the SPORE. She gave invited talks on the SPORE-supported work at U.S. Berkeley (April 1999), at a consensus conference in Philadelphia, and at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston (May 1999), and was invited to present on DCIS at the International Breast Screening Network meeting in Florence, Italy in late August 1999.

The Center for Reproductive Health Research and Policy seeks to effect changes in the development and delivery of reproductive health care services, including introducing new contraceptive methods and increasing access to safe and affordable reproductive health care. Training and education are viewed as critical to achieving and maintaining the Center's scientific objectives. Faculty members of the Center are engaged in research and training projects domestically and internationally. Current projects in Bangladesh, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Nepal, and El Salvador establish a record of success in conducting work internationally.

The USCF CoE met with leaders from the International Ladies Garment Industry Union to discuss ideas for recruiting Chinese women into research.

◆ **Harvard University CoE**

Initiated in 1994, the Study of Women's Health Across the Nation (SWAN) is an NIH-funded longitudinal study designed

to examine a wide variety of issues important to women's health in mid-life, with a focus on ethnicity. MGH, a partner of the Harvard University CoE, was selected as one of the seven centers across the United States to participate in this study. Each of the seven sites recruited 450 women from their surrounding geographic area. Half of the study population was pre-designed as Caucasian, while the other half was designed to be African-American, Chinese, Japanese, or Hispanic. As an observational study, SWAN is mainly questionnaire-based research, focusing on such issues as physical activity, non-traditional health care practices, medical use, hormone data, bone density, cardiovascular risk factors, mood, and sexual behavior. The Principal Investigator of the MGH study site is Joel Finkelstein, M.D.

◆ **Magee-Womens Hospital CoE**

This year Dr. Sharon Hillier was invited to join the Joint US-Indo Working Group on Reproductive Health. This collaboration brings together experts in the area of women's health, especially contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV prevention, and improved pregnancy outcomes to improve the research infrastructure on reproductive health in India. In this capacity, Dr. Sharon Hillier organized a workshop in New Delhi, India, from November 8-10, 2000, on the role of reproductive tract infections in women and their effects on reproductive outcomes and HIV susceptibility. Dr. Richard Sweet, Chair of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Magee-Womens Hospital, joined Dr. Hillier in this effort at the University of Pittsburgh/Magee. The concept being explored with this collaboration is the development of an international model of excellence for reproductive health research in India.

◆ **University of Michigan Health System CoE**

Deidre S. Maccannon, M.D., CoE Research Director, was granted a site for the Raloxifene Use for the Heart (RUTH) study, a major international, long-term study of designer estrogen and health.

◆ **University of Pennsylvania CoE**

The University of Pennsylvania's research program in women's health has a tradition of international collaboration.

International research and training activities in women's health were substantially expanded during the past contract period as the result of new grant awards. The CoE obtained a Fogarty Internal Center training grant in Maternal and Child Health focused on the research training of Latin American physicians and scientists. A competing renewal application was submitted for another Fogarty International Center grant for training Latin American physicians and scientists in reproductive medicine. Three Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award applications were submitted to sponsor collaborative research with investigators in Argentina, Chile and Mexico. One of these applications was recently funded with a second likely to be funded. The CoE also responded to a RFA for the establishment of a Global Health Research Network Unit with investigators at the Insituto Nacional de Perinatologia in Mexico City to conduct research on the prevention of preeclampsia. Review of this application is pending.

During the past contract year, the CoE co-sponsored a symposium on Health and Society: Women's and Children's Health with the University of Pune in Pune, India. This joint symposium provided a platform for consideration of collaborative research and training in women's health. Jerome F. Strauss, III,

M.D., Ph.D. was named Co-Chair of the Indo-U.S. Joint Working Group in Reproductive Health co-sponsored by the NIH and the Department of Biotechnology of the Indian government.

There has been a long history of collaborations between the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pune. The two universities have a formal affiliation that has been valuable for the summer Penn in India Program. However, there has not been any institutional affiliation with an academic health facility in India. In order to remedy this, a number of faculty from disciplines such as the Nursing Department Center for Research on Reproduction and Women's Health and the Office of International Medical Programs have joined together to form the India Health Group, under the auspices of Penn's Office of International Medical Programs. The group is beginning to develop the infrastructure for a national and international graduate curriculum for Women's Health and Maternal and Child Health Care Programs. The University of Pennsylvania hosted the PENN-PUNE Health Care Symposium, April 26-29, 1999. The symposium consisted of four working days devoted to curriculum development, development of the program's diploma courses, and identification of mechanisms for the programs evaluation. Collaborative Clinical Research and Community Outreach Programs between the Center for Research on Reproduction and Women's Health and KEM Hospital in Pune was a major focus for the symposium. Future plans include the possibility of a National Conference on Women's Health in the year 2000. Such a conference would be extremely ambitious given the time constraints. However, in January 2000, Pune will be the site of the All Indian Science Congress and a proposal has been submitted to have health be a major theme.



◆ **Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center CoE**

To help reduce maternal mortality in developing countries, the WHCoE is helping researchers implement a structured educational program in obstetric anesthesia. In cooperation with the WFU Department of Anesthesiology, a leader in obstetric anesthesia education and research, and Kybele, Inc., a non-profit organization founded to promote OB anesthesia training in developing countries, a 2-3 day symposium is planned to be held in Turkey. Anesthesiologists and obstetricians from 50 Turkish hospitals will attend the symposium for training in obstetric anesthesia and in newborn resuscitation. An outcome survey will be conducted and compared to a 1998 survey of obstetric anesthesia practices in Turkey. An increase in the use of regional anesthesia and implementation of newborn resuscitation protocols throughout Turkish hospitals is expected. This teaching model will be used for programs in other developing countries and the educational materials will be translated into various languages. Doctors from Ghana, China and Egypt have already requested workshops.

The Women's Center utilizes *Pursuit*, a Medical Center wide publication, to advertise various local, national and international seminars. The CoE's column in *Pursuit* also highlights grants and funding for women's health research. Approximately 1,100 newsletters are distributed on a monthly basis to full-time faculty, graduate students, and key administrators.

Wake Forest University and the University of North Carolina are forming a consortium to submit an application to the Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research. The WFU CoE group consists of Beth Dugan, Ph.D.,

Margaret Harper, M.D., Eberhard Mueller-Heubach, M.D., and Paul Meis, M.D., OB/GYN. CoE ties have been established to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and will focus on Latin America (Mexico, Argentina and Brazil). The intervention is to change provider behavior regarding labor and delivery

◆ **University of Washington, Seattle CoE**

The CoE collaborated with the Center for Women's Health Research to offer a Summer Institute in June 1999 that focused on socioculturally relevant research methods and considerations for the new millennium. This three-day Institute attracted national and international investigators interested in further development of expertise in the study of sociocultural dimensions of women's health. The first day of the Institute addressed methods for developing community partnership for development of relevant research questions and inviting participation in research. The second day focused on the issues of designs and methods relevant for culturally sensitive research including focus groups, participatory action research, survey methods, and clinical trials. The third day focused on dissemination of research to influence health care for women at the individual, community, health care institution, and policy levels.

◆ **University of Wisconsin-Madison CoE**

Dr. Terry Young, CoE collaborator and research faculty on the National Institute on Aging (NIA) "Women's Health and Aging: Research and Leadership Training Grant," is studying sleep disordered breathing in Hmong women. The CoE facilitated the placement of Lai Thao, a Hmong undergraduate student interested in going to medical school, in Dr. Young's research lab for the summer of 2000. Lai also serves on the UW CoE's

Advisory Committee. Dr. Terry Young is also effectively bridging linguistic and cultural obstacles by working with the Hmong graduate students.

Rachel Rodriguez, RN, PhD, CoE Advisory Committee Member and Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing, is currently funded from several sources, including the National Institute of Justice, to address issues of domestic violence among migrant workers. A Mexican-American herself, she has developed strong networks and relationships among migrant women, many of whom are not documented citizens and have unmet health care needs.

Mark Linzer, MD and Julia McMurray, MD of the University of Wisconsin COE Evaluation Team have begun work on the following international collaborative projects: 1) Gender Differences in Physician Burnout in the US and the Netherlands with researchers in the Department of Medical Psychology at the University of Amsterdam and 2) Part-Time Physician Practice in the US and the Netherlands: a Glimpse of the Future? with researchers at the Netherlands Primary Care Research Institute (NIVEL) in Utrecht. These studies define a new horizon for understanding the participation of women and men physicians in the workplace and the adverse consequences of specific aspects of physician worklife in the US. The papers emanating from these projects are currently in the final phases of preparation for submission to the New England Journal of Medicine and the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

Dr. McMurray has also led a team of international researchers assessing women in the physician workforce. This four-country comparison (UK, Canada, Australia, and the US) was presented at the 4th International Workforce Symposium in San Francisco,

November 1999 and the manuscript has been submitted to JAMA. Dr. McMurray will be presenting her latest work in a breakout session at the upcoming 5th International Workforce Symposium in Sydney, Australia, November 2000.

### **Leadership**

#### **◆ University of California, San Francisco CoE**

The CoE co-sponsored a three-week international Family Planning Leadership Institute. The UCSF Center for Reproductive Health Research and Policy and the Center for Health Leadership and Practice hosted 20 representatives from Pakistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria and the Philippines for a three-week International Family Planning Leadership Institute in June/July 2000. The participants attended a three-week training in the US to receive leadership skills as well as technical information on new family planning and reproductive health technologies. The first week of the training was in Santa Cruz on leadership; week two was in Berkeley on policy development; and week three was at UCSF on family planning. Applicants were selected to represent a range of areas and responsibilities including leaders committed to population and reproductive health issues, governmental leaders responsible for making policy or managing programs, political leaders, and regional or local officials committed to population and reproductive health in their communities.

#### **◆ Magee-Womens Hospital CoE**

In January 2000, Magee-Woman's Institute hosted "Women's Health Mission: A Workshop in Personal, Organizational and Community Leadership." The US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsored this through the Office of Citizen Exchanges. The workshop assembled 18

women leaders and managers selected from healthcare organizations throughout Russia and partnered them with woman leaders from Pittsburgh businesses and community organizations. Mary Zubrow, Vice President, Community and Government Affairs, hosted the group. During the 21-day workshop the women developed individualized Leadership Action Plans. One partner was Laurie Moser, Executive Director, Pittsburgh's "Race for the Cure" who stated, "I am delighted to work with the women from Russia with the hope that early detection of breast cancer becomes a regular part of women's healthcare in their country."

◆ **University of Wisconsin-Madison CoE**

The UW CoE has served as a placement site for minority high school students through Dr. Gloria Hawkins' (CoE faculty) summer research minority high school student apprentice program. These students have broadened the reach of our kids and teens website by adding sections in Spanish and including information for Asian communities.

**Outreach**

◆ **University of California at Los Angeles CoE**

Dr. Davtyan gave the keynote address to "Reporting on Women's Health," a conference of the International Women's Media Foundation, Mangalia, Romania, June 1999. This was titled "The Role of the Media in Public Health Education."

International Integration and Linkages - International Visitors to the UCLA CoE:

— Mrs. Nava Barak and associates: President, "Friends of Rabin Medical Center" and current wife of Prime Minister of Israel

(2 visits). The CoE provided a list of patient education resources to be used to establish a women's health patient education center.

- Department Director, General, All-China Women's Federation delegation, China.
- Elizabeth Chatham and Lesley Dwyer: Royal Women's Hospital, Australia.
- Julie Cwikel: Director, "Center for Women's Health Studies and Promotion," Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
- Dr. E. J. Holzman, Gynecology and Obstetrics specialist, Israel.
- OB/GYN professionals delegation, Japan.
- Dr. Meena Kothari and associates "Miss-N-Mrs. Clinic, Women's Health Initiative," India.
- Shanghai Pharmacists delegation, China.
- Worldwide Ministries of Health, visit by 40 representative of 27 Ministries of Health and other health entities.

◆ University of California, San Francisco CoE

Dr. Nancy Milliken, CoE Director, met with Midori Ashida from Japan regarding her initiative to study the health of Japanese women and to create Center of Excellence in Women's Health using UCSF CoE as a model. Dr. Milliken also met with Dr. Glen Bowes, Executive Director for the Women's Health Care Network in Melbourne, Australia. Dr. Bowes has the responsibility of spearheading the development of the Women's Integrated Care Centre at the Royal Women's Hospital.

◆ 11th International Women's' Health Congress

Over 200 Representatives from more than 35 countries attended the Congress held in San Francisco, January 26-29, 2000. The 11th International Congress on Women's Health Issues, organized by the UCSF School of Nursing in affiliation with the International Council on Women's Health Issues and other co-sponsoring universities and organizations. UCSF CoE was a major co-sponsor of this event.

The CoE compiled a reader of key articles on the subject of women and work. This reader was provided to every participant. The COE and the Center for Reproductive Health Research and Policy co-sponsored a dinner with council members from Zimbabwe, Egypt, Germany, and Thailand to discuss broadening the definition of health. During the Congress, UCSF and Michigan COE representatives met with advocates and providers from Japan.

This year's Congress was titled, "Women's Work, Health, and Quality of Life." Participants used a broad and comprehensive approach to examine the complex relationship between women's work and their health. The Congress highlighted the unique features and conditions of women's work that often fall outside the narrow definition of employment focusing on the experiences of women in their diverse work situations around the world. Congress participants gained a global understanding of the dynamic and complex forces that influence women's work and their health.

The Congress began with an opening ceremony on Wednesday, January 26, 6:30 to 11 p.m. at the Yerba Buena Center. Entertainment included gospel singing, Native American drumming, and ethnic dances from Africa, China, Ireland, Mexico, and Polynesia.

The keynote speaker was Helen Rodriguez-Trias, M.D., an international consultant to numerous women's and children's organizations and past president of the American Public Health Association. Rodriguez-Trias gave an overview of the comparative working experiences of women around the world. Other keynote speakers included Shirley Chater, Former US Commissioner of Social Security; Medea Benjamin, Co-Director of Global Exchange; Sally Ann Bisch, World Health Organization; Tassana Boontong, Mahidol University; Justice Unit Dow, Judge, Botswana; Sandra Hernandez, CEO San Francisco Foundation; Miriam Hirschfeld, World Health Organization; Karen Messing, University of Quebec at Montreal; Pat Mora, Poet; Valarie Coleman Morris, CNN Financial News; Barbara Pillsbury, Pacific Institute for Women's Health; Vivian Pinn, Director of Women's Health, NIH; Luz Maritza Tennasee, WHO; Jeanne Mager Stellman, Columbia; and Ora L. Strickely, Emory University.

More than 200 national and international researchers challenged the prevailing definitions of work, health, and illness for women through presentations, poster sessions, and plenary talks. Through examples, participants described the effect that poverty, global economics, racism, and classism have on shaping women's work and responses to health and illness.

Presenters addressed such topics as chronic illnesses, violence against women, adolescent issues, and reproductive health. Discussion of women's experiences ranged from disabled women seeking reproductive health care in the United States to the experiences of Brazilian policewomen. Other speakers touched on the exclusion of women in medical research, the way women integrate the different demands and stresses in their lives, and the measurement and classification of women's work to accurately capture its incredible variety.



CoE's interns and volunteers assisted in workshop preparations, support as well as serving as on site assistants. The CoE coordinated a walking tour of the San Francisco Mission District and health clinic sites. Dixie Horning served on the Scientific Advisory Committee and Tracy Weitz, co-chaired the hospitality Committee.

◆ **Magee-Womens Hospital CoE**

In 1992, the Board of Directors of Magee-Womens Hospital agreed to “globalize” the hospital’s mission through the launch of an international outreach program to the former Soviet Union called Magee Womancare International (MWI).

Today, Magee Womancare International has flourished and expanded to offer educational programs and technical assistance to seven countries including Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Hungary, Estonia, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic. Funded primarily through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States Information Agency, and the United Nations, Magee is proud to share knowledge of improved maternal and child health with countries in great need.

Emphasizing cultural sensitivity, organizational planning and financial feasibility, Magee Womancare International is committed to:

- Development of improved gynecologic and obstetric care models that can be easily and economically replicated throughout a health system.
- Creation of consumer and community health education programs for women and their families.
- Strengthening of talented health care professionals through

training workshops in program management, financial planning, and leadership.

- Encouragement of the growth of the voluntary philanthropic sector as it pertains to women's health.

Magee Womancare International is dedicated to the promotion of safe, modern, and dignified health care for women around the world. In pursuit of this objective, MWI works in close partnership with health care providers, government agencies, corporate sponsors, and consumers to develop working models for lasting change in the practice of gynecology and obstetrics.

With innovative management and comprehensive services, MWI has helped to establish more than 26 independent clinics throughout the former Soviet Union including the Russian Womancare Clinic Network funded by USAID and the Open Society Institute.

Through partnerships and training, MWI plays a leading role in the design and implementation of improved clinical care in obstetrics. More than 600 health care professionals from the former Soviet Union have attended training workshops and conferences presented by clinicians from Magee in maternal and child health. In 2000, the Savior's-Magee Birth House in Moscow opens a jointly administered and staffed prenatal care clinic, birthing center, and teaching program.

MWI designs and administers field training programs and physician symposia in critical areas of women's health including older women's health, breast cancer, domestic violence, adolescent health, and reproductive endocrinology. More than 2,000 health care professionals have attended Magee clinical updates.

Working under the direction of the United National High

Commission on Refugees in Russia, Magee Womancare International provides family health care to refugees including psycho-social counseling, domestic violence awareness and cultural integration programs.

To ensure modern models of women's health care, Magee Womancare International provides home host training for foreign health care providers at Magee-Womens Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. With funding and placement from the World Health Organization, the United States Agency for International Development, and others, more than 300 foreign physicians and nurses have trained in-residence at Magee.

A belief in good health through good information is a driving force behind the work of Magee Womancare International. MWI and its Eastern European network of more than 26 women's health education centers offers programs in preventive health to more than 100,000 women and girls annually. These innovative non-profit centers, working in close collaboration with Magee, have also published and distributed over 25 original educational health brochures, three instructional videos on family planning, prepared childbirth, and adolescent health, and a non-profit management training curriculum.

Ongoing national efforts in the promotion of prepared childbirth classes resulted in the 1999 Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation declaration that the Magee prepared childbirth curriculum national protocol be published and taught in continuing education programs for Russian physicians and nurses.

MWI childbirth and women's health education conferences are held annually with support from Lamaze International, the largest professional childbirth education association in the world.

International conferences have been held in Smolensk, Russia; Suzdal, Russia; Budapest, Hungary; and Tallin, Estonia. The Assistant Director of the CoE, Michele Ondeck, and the Director of Education for the CoE, Connie Feiler, are education advisors for the International Training. The CoE will work with health professionals from the Ukraine throughout the summer and fall of 2000 to prepare them to develop the role of community health educators. A small group of these professionals, who will be involved in a train-the-trainer program, will attend the March 2001 Lamaze Childbirth Educator Program offered at MWH with the University of Pittsburgh.

To foster community networking and personal growth in countries undergoing health care reform, Magee Womancare International encourages and supports the coordination of women's health festivals and events. In Moscow, an annual Festival of Women's Health is generously supported by corporate sponsors and private donors and has been attended by more than 3,000 women in its first five years.

Health care excellence depends on dedicated leadership. Magee Womancare International designs and implements training programs and workshops which have resulted in the participation of more than 500 health care providers and non-profit managers.

MWI often serves as a sub-contractor in women's health training and has administered workshops for leading international development organizations such as The Academy for Education Development (AED), American International Health Alliance (AIHA), Management Science for Health (MSH), Eurasia Foundation, United Nations (UN) and the United States Information Agency (USIA).

Magee Womancare International offers multi-cultural healthcare management training in the following areas:

- Leadership development
- Non-profit management: administration, finance and human resources
- Organizational planning and financial management
- Fundraising for sustainability
- Continuous quality improvement (CQI)
- Women's health specialty marketing.

◆ **University of Pennsylvania CoE**

The Current Women's Health Newsletter was created at the University of Pennsylvania CoE in August of 1998. The newsletter is a weekly e-mail bulletin intended to embody the latest scientific and medical discoveries related to women's health issues, both locally and around the globe. The original intent of the newsletter was to keep the physicians and researchers abreast of current women's health issues. But the response outside the University of Pennsylvania has been phenomenal. The newsletter now has more than 400 subscribers within the University of Pennsylvania Health System and CoE Network. The newsletter also has an international audience at the University of Chile thanks to the former Center for Research on Reproduction and Women's Health investigator who returned to Chile and wished to bring back the newsletter to his staff and patients. More recently, the newsletter was featured in the electronic magazine, Women's International Network (WIN), to invite subscriptions to the newsletter. The WIN magazine reaches 10,000 women around the globe.

A big health issues facing the women in Russia is surgical menopause. Pre-menopausal women who have both of their ovaries surgically removed become menopausal immediately. This abrupt transition is known as surgical menopause. Natural menopause usually leads to a slow, gradual decline in estrogen production, while surgical menopause is abrupt. As a result, problems such as hot flashes are particularly intense. The risk of heart disease and osteoporosis also is higher than it is for women who have gone through natural menopause. The earlier a woman experiences surgical menopause, the more important it may be for her to consider her options such as hormone replacement therapy. But, in Russia, there is very little health information available for women. Anna Purinson from the Pavlov State Medical University in St. Petersburg, Russia, came to the Center of Excellence to develop a "Surgical Menopause Guidebook" and "Surgical Menopause Patient Pages" for both her fellow practitioners and her patients. The "Surgical Menopause Guidebook" will be translated to Russian upon her return.

The Atlantea Women and Health Information Network is a University of Puerto Rico-funded project that aims to establish collaborative research and educational activities between the University of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. The CoE Director received annual funding in 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 to partially cover expenses for this networking effort. Under the auspices of Atlantea, the CoE has established a Caribbean Women's Health Information Network.

On March 3, 2000, the University of Puerto Rico Atlantea project held it's annual meeting to share achievements of the program as a whole and to discuss presentations made by the many investigations, networks, and working groups that the project sponsors. The CoE Director presented the achievements

of the Center's Women's Health Information Network. Highlights of the presentation include the Director's visit to the Virgin Islands in December 1999 and her plans for including other members of the Caribbean in the Network.

The Women and Health Center participated in the planning committee for the University of Puerto Rico ATLANTEA meeting titled "Third Journey of Caribbean Studies," held on the University of Puerto Rico campus, March 15-17, 2000. Dr. Camacho, CoE Director, moderated a panel entitled "Challenges for Research and Health Promotion of Women in the Caribbean."

The Women's Global Network for Reproductive Health representative visited Puerto Rico in July 1999. This visit permitted networking and contributed to the CoE having a better understanding of the history of the development of health care issues within the feminist movement locally and its ties with the international movements. It provided information on the current health issues that the participants face, as the movements both internationally and locally face aging of the population; helped publicize (within an informal setting among the feminist groups participating) the existence and the role of new models of health care delivery such as the CoE model, and discussed how well these models respond to some of the participant's concerns. As a result of the meeting, the CoE has subscribed to the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Health publications in Spanish, for its Women's Health Information Unit. The activity, sponsored by Taller Salud, a local feminist group that promotes women's health issues and that works in close alliance with the CoE, facilitated the exchange of ideas and concern with grass-root feminists and identified women's perceived needs for the feminist movement. Thirty organization representatives

attended the meeting. The CoE participates and collaborates in activities of the alliance and vice versa.

The CoE Associate Director has been working with a Hispanic New York based community organization, to revise a proposal to develop educational modules for Hispanic female students grade K-12 to help empower them and feel proud of their heritage. This project builds on a previous HACER project that collected biographies of women throughout history representing all Spanish speaking countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The University of Puerto Rico CoE is the founding member of the University Congress on Woman and Gender Issues (CUPAMGE), a network of various gender-based projects in existence in universities in Puerto Rico. The group sponsored the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Colloquium about Women, March 2-4, 1999, at the Interamerican University Metropolitan Campus.

The CoE Director, Dr. Delia Camacho, was invited as a Visiting Professor to present a speech at Yale University, in March 1999, on "Puerto Rico: An Overview of Women's Health." The conference was presented to undergraduate students of a Women's Health course and as a seminar for medical students. Dr. Camacho also had the opportunity to host undergraduate female students from various ethnic backgrounds at a tea held at Master Janet Henrich's home. The topic discussed was international women's issues in the advancement of professional careers in the health sciences.

The CoE Director was a plenary keynote speaker at the World Health Organization International Meeting on Women and Health held at Kobe, Japan, on April 5, 2000. Her presentation was titled "Strategies Beyond Health and Welfare Systems: Women's Health in an Academic Setting." The presentation was



based on the importance of the development of a women's health center within academia to create awareness among health professionals in training of women's health issues and needs. It focused on the mission and objectives of the Puerto Rico Women and Health Center and the concept of the US National Centers of Excellence.

The CoE Director and Associate CoE Director participated in the New York Beijing Plus 5 concurrent activities: Focus on Women's Health Around the World: In Support of the Beijing Platform for Action, held at Hunter College and in the Global Alliance for Women's Health Award Ceremonies held at the United Nations. The Director was a panel speaker and spoke about the Puerto Rico CoE concept and networking initiatives with the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean.

**NATIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN WOMEN'S HEALTH  
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